V. 1898-1931: The closing of the Gravity Railroad on January 3, 1899, and the conversion of the line from gravity gauge (51") to standard guage (56½"); the switchback at Panther's Bluffs; the South Canaan Loop; the closing of the Honesdale Branch of the Delaware and Hudson Company's line between Carbondale and Honesdale, August 20, 1931.

Following Powell's summary history of the Gravity Railroad, a slide show on the Gravity Railroad was presented. Slides from the collections of Donald W. Powell, Robert J. Tomaine and Kay and Olicer Shifler were shown. The evening concluded with a screening of the Historical Society's film about the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company's canal, entitled "The Canawler."

Among the 135 guests at this presentation was Dr. Edward Speers, a leading authority not only on the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company's Gravity Railroad, but also the Pennsylvania Coal Company's Gravity Railroad (between Port Griffith and Hawley, completed in 1850, composed of 22 planes, abandoned in 1885).

At the conclusion of the evening, the guests enjoyed refreshments, which were provided for the occasion by St. Joseph's Hospital. Arrangements for the evening were handled by Pete Smith, director of publicity, St. Joseph's Hospital.

In the near future, the Historical Society will present an illustrated lecture on (1) the New York, Ontario & Western Railway Company and (2) the Laurel Line. As it did during Pioneer Days 1982, the Historical Society will present a series of free lectures and films during Pioneer Days 1983. The general public is invited to attend all of these programs, which are presented, as a public service, by the Carbondale Historical Society to the citizens of northeastern Pennsylvania.

Five different membership plans to the Carbondale Historical Society are available: individual membership ($25 year); student or senior citizen membership ($15 year); family membership ($35 year); sustaining or corporate membership ($100 year); and supporting membership ($1,000 year). To obtain a membership application to the Society or for additional information about the Society and its activities, telephone Nan Loftus at 282-2361, or write to the Carbondale Historical Society, P.O. Box 151, Carbondale, PA 18407.